

The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.

(Consolidated September 27, 1904.)

Entered at Raleigh, N. C., as second class mail matter.

The Most Largely Circulated Farm Weekly
Published Between Washington and New Orleans.

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CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

Stories of crime have had a large place in our daily papers of late, and in so far as they have been handled in sensational, "yellow journal" style, the effect has probably been harmful. But in journals of the better sort these news features have carried their own moral. The principle laid down by Mr. Hamilton W. Mabie as to works of fiction applies no less forcibly to reports of crime in our daily papers:

"What makes a story immoral is not that it deals with immoral situations, but that it lacks restraint in describing them, or emphasizes the pleasure more than the repulsiveness of the offense, or separates the punishment from the transgression. 'The Scarlet Letter' and 'Adam Bede' are examples of a profoundly moral treatment of immoral situations. If the effect of reading a story is to make the transgression repulsive or terrible by reason of its moral consequences it is safe to conclude that the spirit and method of the story are sane."

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The Fundamental Law, Moral and Material.

Judged by Mr. Mabie's standard the stories that we have recently had have not been immoral. "Punishment," says Emerson, "is a fruit that unsuspected ripens within the flower of the pleasure that conceals it." But this is not truer than that other principle which is at the bottom of all agricultural practice and is the fundamental law in things moral as well as material: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that also shall he reap." And both principles have been very strikingly illustrated in the stories of Mrs. Chadwick, Nan Patterson, H. H. Rogers and Thomas W. Dewey.

For a time Mrs. Chadwick's schemes flourished beyond the wildest dreams of the romancer; her forged and worthless paper was accepted unquestioningly by financiers and bankers; she lived like a queen. But it could not last. "Nothing false, nothing artificial, can endure." The corrupt tree could not bring forth good fruit. Mrs. Chadwick, exposed, humiliated, faces the new year from a prison's cell. Nan Patterson's story of sin and shame also teaches its own lesson—her accomplice dead, either by his own hand or hers, and the woman's life now trembling in the balance. H. H. Rogers and others probably thought themselves safe in the colossal schemes of bribery and corruption which make up the story of "frenzied finance," but exposure has followed inevitably, and with it loss of prestige and reputation. Thomas W. Dewey of our own State for years cheated justice and might almost have fancied himself secure from our great fundamental law; but now he comes back to his native heath, shorn of his honors, bereft of his friends, haggard, hunted, and heartbroken, his life blighted and blasted in its prime.

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An Example Among Nations.

And our fundamental law applies to nations as well as to men. Whatsoever a nation soweth, of that too it shall reap. Russia illustrates our principle—for though it is big it is not great, nor does its bulk denote strength any more than the fatty degeneration of the drunkard. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Express, writing of the present situation says: "The red flag of revolution is waving all over Russia. A

general rising may be precipitated at any time. I believe that the first news of a heavy disaster to the Russian army in the East will herald such a rising as will shake the bureaucracy to its foundations."

This condition of affairs has not been improved by the Czar's recent reply to the Chernigov Zemstvo. This body humbly petitioned for a general meeting of the Zemstvos to consider needed governmental reforms. The Czar's reply in substance was, that it was none of their business and he would hand down his autocratic powers unimpaired to his son and heir.

There have been no important recent developments in the struggle with Japan. Port Arthur still holds out, and dog meat is a regularly recognized article of diet among the besieged soldiers. The severe cold in Manchuria, the thermometer going to 20 degrees below zero, prevents any general engagement of the hostile forces. It is probable that no other great battle will occur for some weeks.

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Congressional Affairs.

Congress will reassemble this week. Interest centres in the demand for enlarging the powers of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, and it is believed that a long step in this direction will be taken, either at this session of Congress or very early in the next. The bill for reducing Southern representation in the House is making poor progress: it certainly will not pass this time, and probably never will. Nor is there a very bright prospect for the success of the Statehood bill. The irreparable blunder in the admission of Nevada, giving its half dozen wild mining towns the same representation in the United States Senate as a great State like New York, has taught a lesson not likely to be forgotten soon. The Latimer good roads measure has been reported favorably. It cannot pass, however, for the Solons have at last been seized by a fit of economy and are trimming down all appropriation bills. It is also of general interest to note that Chauncey M. Depew has overcome the formidable opposition to his re-election as Senator from New York and will now certainly succeed himself.

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Interesting Election Figures.

At last the official election returns from all the forty-five States have been published, and they make very suggestive reading. In all 13,508,496 votes were cast on November 8th, against 13,968,574 four years ago. In the recent election the strength of the several candidates was as follows: Roosevelt, Republican, 7,627,632; Parker, Democrat, 5,080,054; Debs, Socialist, 391,587; Swallow, Prohibitionist, 260,303; Watson, People's, 114,637; Corregan, Socialist Labor, 33,453; Holcomb, Continental Labor, 830.

In its study of these election returns the Associated Press points some facts of such significance that we believe them more interesting than anything else we could print here. As to the relative strength of Parker and Roosevelt we quote:

"Roosevelt received, over all, 1,746,768, and over Parker, 2,547,578. In 1900 McKinley had 467,046 more than all the other candidates and 859,984 more than Bryan. The vote for Roosevelt was 409,822 more than for McKinley, while that for Parker was 1,277,772 less than for Bryan. The Republicans made gains over their vote of 1900 in 32 States, and the official figures show losses in 13. The total gains of the Republicans were 732,048, and the total losses 312,249, net gain 419,799. The Democrats polled more votes in eight States than in 1900, but less in 37. Their total gains were 30,792, and the total losses 1,291,491, net loss 1,260,699."

The figures compiled by the New York World show that Roosevelt was the strongest Presidential candidate since the Civil War and Parker

the weakest—that is to say, of the nominees of the two great parties in this period Roosevelt received the largest percentage of the popular vote—58—and Parker the smallest—38. Parker carried 13 States and Bryan, four years ago, 17.

It is very evident that a considerable element of the Democratic Party registered a protest against the overthrow of Bryanism by voting for other candidates, the three minor parties this year showing material gains over 1900. "Watson," we read "received his largest vote in Georgia. His total vote in that State was 22,634, with 20,508 in Nebraska, being over one-third of his aggregate, 114,637. Barker polled 50,218 in 1900. The Prohibition vote in 1900 was 208,791; in November, 260,303, a gain of 51,512. Four years ago the Socialists had an electoral ticket in 32 States and polled 87,764. This year they had a ticket in 45 States and the Debs vote was 391,587."

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

We commend to all readers Mr. C. C. Moore's suggestion is regard to taking an inventory at the first of the year and making a record of it as a basis of comparison twelve months hence. A man can't do a better thing the first week in January than subject himself to a thorough cross-examination with a view to ascertaining the progress made during the preceding year and the progress possible during the ensuing year—and this applies to one's moral and intellectual, as well as financial, affairs.

Mr. H. M. Daniel's letters are always interesting, and his experiment with drill planted and hill planted potatoes adds to the stock of information we have as to this crop from Messrs. Archer and Whitener.

On page 3, Prof. J. C. Kendall, the dairy instructor at the A. & M. College, gives some hints of interest to nearly all housewives on "Why the Butter Will Not Come."

Quoting the article on "Breeding the Best Hogs," contributed by Prof. H. H. Williams of our State University to last week's Progressive Farmer, the Raleigh News and Observer very correctly remarks that Prof. Williams "is not only a master of philosophy and an able teacher, but a master also of hog-raising, for he is as good a farmer as metaphysician." Prof. Williams's brief and lucid letters are indeed very valuable, and we are glad that he is with us again. This time he lays down this fundamental proposition: "Any man in this State can enjoy life if he will possess himself of three things: 1. An alfalfa pasture. 2. Acres of cowpeas. 3. Berkshire pigs." And this is pretty good doctrine.

The poultry show referred to on page 3 is the fourth annual exhibition of the North Carolina Poultry Association to be held in Raleigh, January 10th to 13th, and everybody interested should at once write to Mr. J. S. Jeffrey, Raleigh, for a copy of the Premium List. "This list," he says, "has never been equaled in value by any poultry association in the South. From the enquiries already received we are justified in anticipating the largest entry in the history of our Association, and are making arrangements to care for all birds sent us."

No farmer can keep posted without The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant. That is the plain situation, and when deciding whether or not he will take the paper, the farmer is deciding whether he will keep up with the procession or lag behind. This week, for example, we have articles written especially for our paper by President Harvie Jordan, of the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association, Secretary Parker, of the Farmers' Alliance and the leader in organizing North Carolina cotton growers, and President S. C. Adams, of the Inter-State Tobacco Growers' Association. These men know that The Progressive Farmer is the one great medium through which to reach the farmers, and ours is the only paper to which all of them contribute. We have also a strongly written article on the cotton situation from Mr. S. H. Hobbs, of Sampson County. There is no other subject of so much interest to our people at this time, and we are glad to have it so fully discussed in our columns.